



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Public Works

At its meeting held September 9, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“In 1997, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and the Assessor developed a geographic information system (GIS). This system provides a graphic representation of all 2.3 million parcels within Los Angeles County, including parcels both in unincorporated areas and within incorporated cities. The parcel information was developed by Public Works; and the Assessor provided an overlay of information from its DSOIII database that provides data on property-ownership, Assessor's parcel number, property location, and related information.

“Although County staff designed the GIS information to serve its own needs, this information is of great use to private sector corporations, nonprofit institutions and research facilities, and the general public. For this reason the Board of Supervisors authorized the Director of Public Works and the Assessor to enter into agreements with private sector consulting firms to market and sell GIS information to the public.

“The GIS information has proved to be an invaluable law enforcement tool for the Sheriff, particularly for its air support (helicopter) units. Law enforcement representatives of incorporated cities within the County are now inquiring about using the GIS information for their purposes as well.

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“Criminal behavior does not follow jurisdictional boundaries. This is particularly the case for law enforcement helicopters pursuing criminal suspects. Furthermore, charging a fee to sister law enforcement agencies for GIS information is contrary to the dozens of law enforcement mutual aid agreements that the County has with other jurisdictions. Thus far, no outside law enforcement agency has purchased the GIS information.”

Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a motion that the Board request the Director of Public Works, the Sheriff, Assessor, Chief Administrative Officer, and County Counsel to report back to the Board within 30 days on:

1. The feasibility of entering into agreements with law enforcement agencies to allow access, at no cost, to the Department of Public Works' geographic information system, which provides graphic representation of all 2.3 million parcels within the County, and the corresponding Assessor's overlay information from their DSOIII database that provides data on property ownership, Assessor's parcel number, property location, and related information; and
2. The feasibility of providing free-of-cost updates of the Assessor's overlay information to the Sheriff's Department.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion that Supervisor Antonovich's motion be amended to also request the aforementioned Department Heads to include in their report what the appropriate cost recovery would be for use of the geographic information system by other law enforcement agencies. Supervisor Antonovich accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky's amendment.

Supervisor Antonovich's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, was unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent).

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Each Supervisor

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Assessor
Sheriff